

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061185
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-02 TRSE-00 EB-08 /079 R

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APPROVED BY ARA-LA/PAN:SMBELL
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
SOUTHCOM PRIORITY
GOV PANAMA CANAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061185

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY
ACTIVITIES REPORT

WE ARE REINSTITUTING THIS REPORT AFTER A LAPSE OF
SOME MONTHS. HENCEFORTH THE REPORT WILL BE CIRCULATED
WEEKLY IN CABLE FORM TO INTERESTED OFFICES AND AGENCIES IN
WASHINGTON AND PANAMA.

ITS PURPOSE IS THREEFOLD:

A. TO KEEP INTERESTED OFFICES SUCCINCTLY INFORMED OF THE
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MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PANAMA PROBLEM;

B. TO PROVIDE A FORMAL RECORD OF BOTH NEGOTIATING AND
BILATERAL ACTIVITY; AND

C. TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF PAPER WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE
PROBLEM.

THIS INITIAL CABLE REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD MARCH 11-17.

1. INFORMAL MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATORS. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ MET PRIVATELY WITH ROMOLO ESCOBAR AND

EDWIN FABREGA IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 13 FOR AN INFORMAL REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE DISCUSSIONS HELD LAST MONTH IN PANAMA. THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED IN CONNECTION WITH A BRIEF STOPOVER BY THE PANAMANIAN IN THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THEIR RECENT VISIT TO MEXICO. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

2. MURPHY COMMITTEE HEARINGS. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ ACCOMPANIED BY BELL AND DOLVIN, BRIEFED A WELL ATTENDED TWO-HOUR CLOSED SESSION OF HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE/FISHERIES COMMITTEE ON MARCH 16. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES MANY STRONG CRITICS OF OUR PANAMA POLICY, THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS BY-AND-LARGE MODERATE WITH MANY QUESTIONS ON CANAL DEFENSE AND POST-TREATY NEUTRALITY. ANTI-TREATY ARGUMENTS ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY, COMMUNISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE LARGELY UNMENTIONED. THE GENERALLY POSITIVE RESULT WAS MARRED BY SUBSEQUENT LEAKS TO THE PRESS INACCURATELY ATTRIBUTING TO AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ STATEMENTS THAT U.S. WAS SEEKING A PRESENCE IN PANAMA "IN PERPETUITY". ON THE CONTRARY, AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ REMARKS WERE MADE IN RECOGNITION OF THE AGREED CONCEPT THAT THE CANAL WOULD REMAIN PERMANENTLY NEUTRAL.

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3. SARBANES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. APRIL 1 HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY SET AS DATE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS TO BRIEF SENATOR SARBANES' FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA IN CLOSED SESSION.

4. YATRON SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HEARINGS, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS IS SCHEDULING A SESSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA MARCH 30. IN VIEW OF EARLIER BUNKER-LINOWITZ BRIEFING AND SUBCOMMITTEE'S VISIT TO PANAMA MARCH 17-20, WE ANTICIPATE THEY MAY HAVE A NUMBER OF NON-AID QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

5. LA BRIEFING TRIP. AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ ARE PLANNING TO VISIT CARACAS AND BOGOTA MARCH 23-27 TO BRIEF PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND LOPEZ MICHELSON ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH PRESIDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN

THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH TORRIJOS.
A SIMILAR BRIEFING TRIP TO SAN JOSE AND MEXICO CITY IS
ANTICIPATED AT A LATER DATE.

6. STATEMENT OF EMPLOYEE ASSURANCES. GOVERNOR PARFITT
ISSUED ON MARCH 15 A STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES DESIGNED TO

REDUCE EMPLOYEE MISGIVINGS CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE STATUS
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SUBJECT OF EMBASSY CABLES.

7. MEETING WITH AFL-CIO INTER-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE.
ARA/PAN OFFICERS MET ON MARCH 17 WITH ANDREW MCLELLAN,
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ISSUED BY GOVERNOR PARFITT (SEE ABOVE). REGARDING AFL-CIO
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CONTEXT, IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN MEANY AND
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8. HUMAN RIGHTS. ANTI-TREATY OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE
IN DISTRIBUTING ANONYMOUSLY AUTHORED VOLUMES OF THE
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OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THE KEY SENATORS RECOGNIZE
AT THIS TIME THAT PANAMA DOES NOT REALLY FIT IN THE
CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES WITH MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.
IN A RELATED MATTER, ARA/PAN BRIEFED THE PANAMANIAN CHARGE
ON THE STATE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT (SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU:LKB
APPROVED BY:ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU
-----150408Z 084082 /75

P 150146Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0000
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061185

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 61185 ACTION PANAMA INFO USUN NY SOUTHCOM
GOVPANAMA CANAL DATED MAR 19:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061185

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-0582
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770342/aaaabkor.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT WE ARE REINSTITUTING THIS REPORT AFTER A LAPSE OF
TAGS: PFOR, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47995cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009